REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 20, 2007. Claims 34-43 are pending in this application, and have been added. Claims 1-33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 34 and 39 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Figs. 1 and 11 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, and therefore Applicant has not so labeled Figs. 1 and 11. In particular, the present specification describes Figs. 1 and 11 as showing the concept of the so-called first and fourth embodiments of the present invention, respectively, in reference to an example of the configuration of the print processing system. For example, see the description of the first embodiment beginning at page 7, and the description of the fourth embodiment beginning at page 23. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Claims 5 and 20 were objected to for the reasons given. Cancellation of Claims 5 and 20 renders this objection moot.

At paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action, Claims 11 and 26 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Cancellation of Claims 11 and 26 renders this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12-15, 17-20, 27-30, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 to *Wiegley*. Claims 6, 15, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0042884 to *Wu*; and Claims 3, 7-11, 16, 22-26, and 31, as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 7,215,437 to *Shima*.[1]

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[1]/It is noted that paragraph 9 of the Office Action contains an apparent typographical error, in that the Examiner includes Claims 15 and 30 as among the claims rejected as being anticipated by *Wiegley*; however, no such rejection is made out in the Office Action. (The (continued...)

Cancellation of Claims 1-33 renders their rejections moot.

Claim 34 is directed to a print system comprising a print control apparatus, a plurality of image forming apparatuses and a management server which are connected to each other via a network. By virtue of the features of Claim 34, (a) the print control apparatus (client) obtains, from the server, the encryption key and the address of one image forming apparatus (printer) selected for printing, and transmits print data encrypted using the printer encryption key directly to the printer at the address. Further, (b) the print control apparatus obtains the encryption key of the server and transmits print data encrypted using the server encryption key to the server, while the server decrypts the received print data, encrypts the decrypted print data using the printer encryption key, and transmits the encrypted print data to the printer.

A user may feel safe when sending print data directly to a printer, if the user frequently uses the printer and thus has sufficient knowledge as to the security of the printer; however, it may not be safe if the user has no or little knowledge as to the security of the printer. In such a case, it is possible for the user to send the print data to the printer via the server. By virtue of the features of Claim 1, the user is allowed to send the print data directly to the printer and to the printer via the server.

Wiegley, as understood by Applicant, relates to a secure printing method. *Wiegley* discusses encryption and decryption of print data communicated between a client and a printer. The printer transmits a session ID and a printer public key to the client. The client generates a session key (private key of the client), encrypts the session key using the printer public key, and transmits the encrypted session key together with the session ID to the printer. The printer decrypts the received session key using a private key of the printer. The client encrypts print data using the generated session key and transmits the encrypted

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[1/](...continued)
Examiner does make out a rejection of Claims 15 and 30, as being obvious from Wiegley in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0042884 to Wu.)

print data to the printer. The printer decrypts the received encrypted print data using the decrypted session key, and prints the decrypted print data.

Applicant has found nothing in *Wiegley* that would teach or suggest a print system including the above-mentioned features. Nothing in *Wiegley* would teach or suggest a print system as recited in Claim 1, including "an informing unit, provided in the management server, configured to inform the print control apparatus of an encryption key which can be decrypted only by the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit and of an address of the selected image forming apparatus," "a decryption unit, provided in the management server, configured to decrypt the encrypted print data included in the print job transmitted by the print job transmission unit," "a third encryption unit, provided in the management server, configured to encrypt the print data decrypted by the decryption unit using the encryption key of the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit," and "a print data transmission unit, provided in the management server, configured to transmit the print data encrypted by the third encryption unit to the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit," as recited in Claim 34.

Accordingly, Claim 34 is believed to be patentable over *Wiegley*.

Independent Claim 39 recites features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above in connection with Claim 34. Accordingly, claim 39 is believed to be patentable over *Wiegley* for at least the reasons discussed above.

Shima, as understood by Applicant, relates to printing over a network. *Shima* discusses transmission of print data from a client to a printer via a server, where a session is established between the client and the server and between the printer and the server, with respective SSL communications. The server manages information on printers, such as printer names on the network, logical location information (e.g., IP address), types and groups, and when a session is established between the server and the client, informs the client of information on a printer available. The client designates one of the printers and

transmits a print job to the server, while the server forwards the print job to the designated printer.

Applicant has found nothing in *Shima* that would teach or suggest a print system including the above-mentioned features. Nothing in *Shima* would teach or suggest a print system as recited in Claim 1, including "an informing unit, provided in the management server, configured to inform the print control apparatus of an encryption key which can be decrypted only by the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit and of an address of the selected image forming apparatus," "a decryption unit, provided in the management server, configured to decrypt the encrypted print data included in the print job transmitted by the print job transmission unit," "a third encryption unit, provided in the management server, configured to encrypt the print data decrypted by the decryption unit using the encryption key of the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit," and "a print data transmission unit, provided in the management server, configured to transmit the print data encrypted by the third encryption unit to the image forming apparatus selected by the selection unit," as recited in Claim 34.

Accordingly, Claim 34 is believed to be patentable over *Shima.*

Independent Claim 39 recites features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above in connection with Claim 34. Accordingly, claim 39 is believed to be patentable over *Shima* for at least the reasons discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

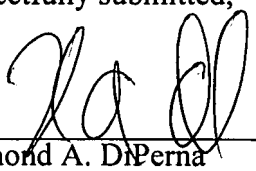
The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claims 34 or 39 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however,

the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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